

# Maryland Community Health Resources Commission Issues Grant Awards to Expand Health Care Access and Invest in Maryland's Primary Care Infrastructure

## Maryland Community Health Resources Commission News Release

**(Annapolis, MD) July 29, 2010** - The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) announced its grant awards for the current fiscal year that began on July 1, 2010. The 14 grant awards, totaling \$1.3 million in FY 2011 funds, are designed to expand access to primary care in underserved areas of the state, help reduce infant mortality, increase access to dental care for low-income children, and promote access to behavioral health treatment services. The grant programs are projected to help provide access to health care for more than 75,000 Marylanders in all regions of the state (see attached list). In addition to these 14 awards, the CHRC has issued 64 grants over the last four years, totaling \$20.5 million, and these grants have provided health care services to more than 55,000 low-income Marylanders, resulting in more than 200,000 patient visits.

"The Commission is dedicated to supporting innovative and sustainable health care programs," commented John A. Hurson, Chairman, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. "These programs will expand access to health care and help Maryland prepare to implement comprehensive health care reform." The mission of the CHRC is to expand capacity in Maryland's health care infrastructure by awarding grants to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and other safety net providers, reduce non-emergent visits to hospital emergency departments, and address Maryland's most pressing health care needs, such as infant mortality, dental, and behavioral health. Many of the CHRC's awards involve partnerships among FQHCs, hospitals, and local health departments, and the grant awards are designed to encourage interconnected, interlocking systems of coordinated care in the community. The \$20.5 million provided by the CHRC has enabled its grantees to leverage approximately \$4.8 million in additional federal and private/non-profit resources.

"These funds have enhanced the delivery of critical services that help families in need, especially in these difficult economic times," said John M Colmers, Secretary of Maryland Department Health and Mental Hygiene. "Reducing infant mortality, expanding dental care, primary care and substance abuse treatment are among the top priorities of the O'Malley/Brown Administration and we are making progress across the board."

The grants issued by the CHRC for the coming year are designed to address four critical areas:

[CHRC FY11 Grant Awards](#) 

- ***Reducing infant mortality*** - 3 awards totaling \$517,000;
- ***Expanding access to dental care*** - 4 awards totaling \$490,000;
- ***Increasing access to behavioral health/drug treatment*** - 5 awards totaling \$500,000; and
- ***Expanding access to primary health care services***- 3 awards totaling \$475,000.